

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/065,992 Confirmation No. 6667
Applicant : Haruyo Fukui, et al.
Filed : December 8, 2002
T.C./A.U. : 1775
Examiner : Archene A. Turner
Docket No. : 39.005-AG
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Because reconsideration is being requested in view of the telephonic interview conducted on October 30, 2006 with the Examiner, by Chris Strienz acting as appointed by Applicant's undersigned representative, on Applicant's behalf the following summary is submitted.

Interview Summary Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.133(b)

- 1) Pending claims 4 and 5 were discussed.
- 2) The specific prior art discussed was: *Hakovirta* ("Hardmetal woodcutting tool tips coated with tetrahedral amorphous carbon," *Diamond and Related Materials* 8, 1999, p. 1125-1228), as it pertains to claim 5; and U.S. Patent 6,565,957 to *Nakamura et al.* as it pertains to claim 4.
- 3) Among the principal proposed amendments to claims 4 and 5 discussed, those of a substantive nature were:
 - i) Amending claim 4 to change the transitional phrase to "consisting of," as suggested by the Examiner; and
 - ii) Re-writing claim 4 as a method claim, as suggested by Chris Strienz; and

- iii) Adding certain limitations to claim 5 so as to disclaim structures including intermediate layers disposed between the carbon film and the cemented carbide and structures including multiple carbon film layers, and to recite that the cobalt concentration at the cutting surface of the cemented carbide is substantially equal to the bulk cobalt concentration in the cemented carbide.
- 4) Chris Strienz explained how reciting the above limitations i) – iii) are toward distinguishing that the present invention requires only a single-layer compound thin film, which distinguishes over *Nakamura et al.*, and over *Hakovirta*, which discloses an intermediate and multi-layer structure, and teaches the necessity of a one-hour physical etching (sputtering) procedure to promote adhesion of the carbon film, whereas no such cobalt-depleting is used or required in the instant invention.

The Examiner kindly suggested limitation i).

The Examiner agreed that limitations iii) would patentably distinguish claim 5 over *Hakovirta*.

- 5) No other pertinent matters were discussed.
- 6) Complete agreement on proposed claim amendments to put the application in condition for allowance was not reached. It was agreed that claim amendments such as those discussed would require submission of an RCE.

Respectfully submitted,

December 7, 2006

/James Judge/

James W. Judge
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